

How-To

Remote Court Reporting Setup Checklist

Everything you need for a legally defensible remote deposition with a court reporter

Pre-Deposition Technology Checklist

Attorney / Participant Equipment

- External HD webcam (NOT built-in laptop camera)
- Noise-canceling headset with microphone (NOT laptop speakers/mic)
- Hard-wired Ethernet connection (NOT Wi-Fi)
- Minimum 10 Mbps download / 5 Mbps upload
- Professional lighting — even, front-facing, no harsh shadows
- Private, quiet room with neutral background
- All exhibits pre-loaded to platform repository (PDF format)
- Backup copies of all exhibits on local drive
- Phone dial-in number for audio backup
- Secondary device charged and ready as backup

Court Reporter Equipment

- Steno writer (Luminex II, NexGen, Diamante) connected via USB-C
- CAT software installed and tested (Case CATalyst, Eclipse, StenoCAT)
- Realtime streaming software configured (CaseViewNet, Bridge Mobile, LiveNote)
- Audio backup — wireless microphone kit for AudioSync recording
- Hardwired Ethernet with minimum 10 Mbps up/down
- Secondary internet connection ready (mobile hotspot)
- Backup steno machine available

Pre-Deposition Protocol

- Full system test with reporter and all key participants 24–48 hours before
- All participants log in 20 minutes early for final testing
- Backup phone dial-in number distributed to all parties
- Exhibit sharing tested with sample documents
- Stipulations drafted for remote format, recording method, and tech-difficulty protocol

Critical: All participants should conduct a full dry run 24–48 hours before the deposition — not the morning of. Equipment failures discovered day-of cause delays, extra charges, and scheduling headaches.

Platform Comparison

Factor	Zoom / Teams	Dedicated Legal Platform	In-Person
Cost	\$0-\$20/month	Included in reporting fees	Reporter + travel + room
Exhibit management	Basic screen share only	Digital stamping, repository	Physical documents
Realtime display	Requires separate software	Integrated into platform	Separate viewer
Digital exhibit stamping	No	Yes, with timestamps	Manual Bates stamps
Breakout rooms	Yes	Yes, enhanced privacy	Step outside
End-to-end encryption	Zoom for Government only	Standard	N/A
Audit trail / timestamps	No	Yes	Manual record
Court reporter integration	Manual	Built-in	Standard
Video recording quality	Varies	Professional, trial-ready	Videographer controls
Verdict	Internal prep only	Trial-ready depositions	Gold standard

Major Legal Platforms

Veritext Virtual — Built on Zoom with legal overlay; exhibit share with digital stamping; most widely used

RemoteDepo Pro (US Legal Support) — Centralized exhibit repository across entire case; annotation tools

LegalView (Lexitas) — Military-grade encryption; picture-in-picture realtime + video

vTestify — ScriptSync for post-depo keyword search; up to 50 HD participants

Planet Depos Remote — Remote tech provided free; charge only for technician oversight

Pro Tip: Most dedicated legal platforms are included in the court reporting firm's service fee. Ask your reporter what platform they use and whether it's included.

Realtime Feed Technology

How Realtime Transcript Streaming Works

1. Reporter writes on steno machine (Luminex II, NexGen, Diamante)
2. Machine connects via USB-C to laptop running CAT software
3. CAT software translates steno strokes to English using reporter's personal dictionary
4. Streaming software broadcasts translated text to connected viewers via cloud or local network
5. Attorneys view live transcript on any device — annotate, highlight, and search in real time

Realtime Streaming Systems

System	Developer	How It Works	Client Access
CaseViewNet Cloud	Stenograph	Reporter generates session code; viewers enter at caseviewnet.com	Any browser, any device
Bridge Mobile	Advantage Software	Cloud streaming via Connection Magic Server	iOS/Android app + desktop
LiveNote Stream	Thomson Reuters	Local network + internet streaming	LiveNote client (paid)
TrialBook	StenoCAT	Browser-based streaming	Any browser, any device
LiveLitigation	LiveLitigation	Cloud streaming	Browser-based viewer

Why Request Realtime? Live transcript streaming lets you review testimony immediately, annotate key passages, and adjust your questioning strategy in real time. CaseViewNet is browser-based — no software to install. Cost: \$3.00–\$3.70 per page per connection.

FRCP Rule 30 Compliance

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 30(b)(4)–(5)

Remote depositions are permitted by party stipulation or court order. The noticing party must state the recording method in the deposition notice.

Required On-the-Record Opening Statement (Rule 30(b)(5))

The officer **MUST** begin with ALL of the following:

- Officer's name and business address
- Date, time, and place of deposition
- Deponent's name
- Administration of oath or affirmation
- Identification of every person present with their role
- Any stipulations by the parties

Red Flag: Missing any single element = procedural objection and potential inadmissibility.

Recording Requirements

- Deponent's appearance or demeanor must NOT be distorted through recording techniques
- Any party may designate an additional recording method beyond what the noticing party specified

State-Specific Variations

Critical: Check rules in BOTH the forum state AND the state where the witness is physically located.

California (CCP 2025.310): Deponent or deposing party may elect remote attendance. Reporter does NOT need to be physically present with witness for oath.

Washington (CR 30): Presumes remote depositions proceed unless opposing party files protective order within 3 business days.

Massachusetts: Noticing party may elect remote format, subject to motion challenging the choice.

New York: Commercial Division Rule 37, Appendix G — detailed remote deposition protocol.

Pro Tip: Perkins Coie maintains the definitive "U.S. Remote Deposition and Oath Status" chart with links to every state's specific law. Essential reference for cross-jurisdictional work.

Troubleshooting Quick Reference

Problem	Solution
Internet drops mid-deposition	Use hard-wired Ethernet. Have cellular hotspot as backup. Reporter goes on record noting interruption.
Audio echo or feedback	Use headset with mic (not laptop speakers). Ensure only one audio input active. Mute when not speaking.
Realtime feed disconnects	Reporter regenerates CaseViewNet/Bridge session code. Viewers reconnect. Transcript preserved locally.
Video quality degrades	Close other applications. Reduce video quality settings. Turn off other participants' video if needed.
Exhibit sharing fails	Pre-upload all exhibits to platform before going on record. Have backup method (email to reporter).
Platform crashes	Reporter maintains local backup recording. Reconvene on backup platform. Go on record noting interruption.
Witness coaching suspected	Request camera show full witness workspace. Note unusual pauses or eye movements for the record.
Software update interrupts	Update all software 24+ hours before. Disable auto-updates during session window.

Cost Comparison: Remote vs. In-Person

Typical 4-Hour Deposition (~150 pages)

Component	In-Person	Remote
Appearance fee	\$350	\$250
Transcript (150 pp @ \$5.50/pg)	\$825	\$825
Conference room rental	\$250	\$0
Reporter travel	\$75	\$0
Tech/platform fee	\$0	\$200
Video recording	\$400	\$350
Attorney travel (out-of-town)	\$1,200	\$0
TOTAL	\$3,100	\$1,625

Key Insight: Remote depositions save approximately 40–50% vs. in-person when travel is involved. For local depositions without travel, savings are more modest (10–20%) but scheduling flexibility remains significant.